



P21189.A10

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant : Norio NUMAKO

MAIL STOP ISSUE FEE

Appln. No. : 09/961,186

Group Art Unit: 2851

Filed : September 24, 2001

Examiner: Arthur A. SMITH

For : LENS DRIVE CONTROL APPARATUS FOR ZOOM LENS SYSTEM
HAVING A SWITCHING LENS GROUP

**STATEMENT OF SUBSTANCE OF INTERVIEW
AFTER ALLOWANCE**

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Pursuant to MPEP 713, the following includes a statement of the substance of the personal interview conducted on March 13, 2003. Notwithstanding the statement appearing on the "Interview Summary" Form PTO-413 that any such statement must be filed within one month of the March 13, 2003 interview date, since the Form PTO-413 was not mailed until the Notice of Allowance was mailed on June 3, 2003, Applicant believes that the right to respond with a statement properly extends one month from the date of mailing of the Form PTO-413. Accordingly, it is believed that the statement below is both timely and proper.

(A) Brief Description of Exhibits Shown or Demonstration Conducted

Assignee's Pentax IQZoom 120 SW camera, which includes the claimed features, was demonstrated (including the outwardly visible/audible operation of the claimed features).

(B) Identification of the Claims Discussed

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Claims 1-12 were discussed, most of the discussion being directed to claim 1.

(C) Identification of Specific Prior Art Discussed

KOYAMA, U.S. Patent No. 6,028,714, was discussed.

(D) Identification of Principal Proposed Amendments of a Substantive Nature

None.

(E) General Thrust of the Principal Arguments

As noted in the Reply filed March 17, 2003, Applicants's representatives explained the differences between the claimed system (including the "switching" feature) and the KOYAMA reference, e.g., that the KOYAMA lens groups are not moved between extremity positions. Applicant's representatives briefly explained how the switching could alternatively occur at different times or after different events.

(F) Other Pertinent Matters Discussed

The Examiner was reminded of the existence of copending, commonly assigned applications of a mechanical nature that were incorporated by reference, and encouraged to check with the Examiners handling these cases.

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(G) General Result or Outcome of the Interview

The Examiner and Applicant's representatives agreed that the interview clarified the operation of the invention, the meaning of the claims and the pertinence of the prior art.

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION

In view of the fact that the present statement is necessarily an imperfect and subjective synopsis of the interview conducted on March 13, 2003, no estoppel should be deemed to attach to any claim of this application by virtue of the submission of this statement. No equivalents are considered to have been disclaimed.

If there should be any questions concerning this application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,
Norio NUMAKO

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June 18, 2003
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